

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade  
December 15, 2014  
[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

December 19

Ethnic Fest 1:30-2:45 in the MPR

## News

### Ethnic Fest

This year's Fifth Grade Ethnic Fest will be held on Friday, December 19 from 1:30-2:45 in the MPR. Please do not bring food items that were not approved by Ms. Rossi through our recipe form process. Be sure your food item is nut safe (nut-free and prepared in a sanitary nut-free environment). Your student can bring in the food item in the morning, but we do not have refrigeration.

### Holiday Donations

The staff and students of Holmes School collected over \$2000 for our Holiday families. Ms. Krikau and Ms. O'Malley were able to shop and buy gifts for 36 people in our community! Thank you again to all who contributed donations for these families!

### Winter Coat Drive

We will be doing our annual COAT drive) but it is our former spec ed bus driver that places a box in our front office every year and collects coats for the homeless and delivers them to shelters in the area. The box is up and we will be collecting new and slightly used coats until Thursday, Dec 18th.

### Outdoor Education Field Trip

A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us on the Outdoor Ed trip! You were amazing. We couldn't have organized and traveled without your participation. Thank you!

### Number Hawks Volunteer Opportunity

Holmes is looking for volunteers to tutor students, primarily in Grades K-2, to become proficient mathematicians. Through strategically planned lessons and continuous data collection, you will help Holmes students increase their basic number sense. Can you commit to as little as 20 minutes one day per week or as much as 30 minutes every day? Please fill out the Google form (link below) so that you can be contacted about a tutoring training session and mandatory background check required by the district.

"Number Hawks" are set to take flight this November.

[https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/forms/d/1clY-Wvw9mWrvGmEB6reqPTRdvWyR48H5eQ8J7Jhh\\_sq/viewform](https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/forms/d/1clY-Wvw9mWrvGmEB6reqPTRdvWyR48H5eQ8J7Jhh_sq/viewform)

## Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:  
<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

---

## SPECIAL AREA SUBJECTS

**Thank you to all the 5th grade students and families for a wonderful specials showcase! We truly appreciate your support and hope you enjoyed the evening!**

**Art** - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) This week we will be finishing our eraser printmaking unit. We will finish stamping our designs and then...math. We will be using rulers and measuring to create a paper mat for our print. The dimensions are very specific and require students to measure and cut accurately to create an aesthetically pleasing presentation for our work.

**Music** - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> This week we will be working on a song that the whole fifth grade will record together. Hopefully we will be able to send this video to children in Uganda who shared music with us a few months ago! Our Music Share Day will be on Thursday and Friday during class. Students can sing a song, play a song on my keyboard, bring in an instrument to play or show, or bring in a CD to share a song with the class. A parent note is required on any CD brought in to confirm that it is appropriate for the classroom. Music and instruments may be left in my room at the beginning of the day and picked up after school. Looking forward to a wonderful share day!

**Chorus and Gold Belt** - Chorus and Gold Belt will be working on songs this week for their assembly in January and the choral festival.

**Spanish** - The students have begun familiarizing themselves with the Rosetta Stone app on their ipads. We will begin using this tool in January. Information about student use and district goals will be sent home in January. Students that want extra practice with their Spanish over break are encouraged to use it. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

**Library** - Students will be accessing eBooks this week and should bring their library card numbers and PINs to library. Read on for more information!

Ebooks are electronic books, or versions of books that can be read on a device like a Kindle, Nook, or in our case, iPad. There are two book resources the OPPL offers D97 students: 3M cloud and Overdrive. The 3M cloud is just ebooks. Overdrive offers audiobooks in addition to ebooks. **Both programs require an OPPL library card to login.**

This Wednesday, please have your student bring his/her **library card number** (either the card itself or on a piece of paper is just fine) and **PIN** to school. If your student has not set up a PIN yet, please have him/her do this at home. This can be done by going to <http://www.oppl.org> and clicking on my account (the red button at the top of the screen). Here, your student will enter his/her name, library card number, and create a PIN.

Ebooks are checked out like regular books, but are automatically returned (removed from the device) after the 3 week check out period. Please email [mmaneck@op97.org](mailto:mmaneck@op97.org) with any questions or concerns. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

**Physical Education** - Coming for the entire month of November is HEARTLAND ADVENTURE. The kids go through a maze of obstacles as they explore the circulatory and respiratory systems ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com))

### **Reading/Literature**

Last week and during the upcoming short week before Thanksgiving, our focus is interpreting themes in fiction. Students learned that “theme” is synonymous with “life-lesson” or “big idea” or “moral.” Students also learned that they can interpret themes themselves, especially if they pay attention in their books when the main character feels strong emotions and/or makes a critical choice. This week, students will make a “theme poster” to share a theme in a book that they read independently or with their partner. We will compare themes in a variety of books that students are reading independently, noticing that books can have the same or very similar themes. We will also continue shared reading of *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis.

### **Writing**

As part of our Personal Narrative unit, students will use a variety of strategies to revise and edit their best “flashdraft” of an important moment in their life.

### **Math**

Today, students participated in the individual portion of the first round of the annual statewide ICTM Math Contest. The individual portion consists of 8 questions which students must answer in 20 minutes. Top scores go towards a total score for each grade level. Two more rounds of this contest will be held throughout the school year.

For the remainder of the week, we will continue to work on addition and subtraction of fractions, using an area model to show our thinking. We will have an assessment on Thursday, covering addition and subtraction of fractions and mixed numbers. There will be no math class on Friday, due to the Ethnic Fest.

### **Science**

In science this week, we will focus on how the brain processes information and improves cognitively through effort and learning strategies. We will discuss variables and continue to have students solidify their science fair project.

### **Social Studies**

We will continue our unit on Explorers. This week we will be discussing Christopher Columbus. This will begin with a read-aloud of the book Encounter. Encounter tells the story of Christopher Columbus “discovering America” from the perspective of the Taino people he encountered. We will then discuss whether we think Columbus was a hero, a villain, or both.

### **Spelling/Word Study**

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block. We will review prefixes a-/ab-/abs- and super-/sur- by playing various games.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Mr. Finkbeiner  
[afinkbeiner@op97.org](mailto:afinkbeiner@op97.org)

Ms. Kraft  
[fkraft@op97.org](mailto:fkraft@op97.org)

Ms. Manuel  
[mmanuel@op97.org](mailto:mmanuel@op97.org)

Mr. Porter  
[cporter@op97.org](mailto:cporter@op97.org)